

VIGILance 2010 Prayer Vigil Outline

The theological expression of the prayer vigil is three (3) fold.

First, there is a *generous expression of gratitude* for the earth and its beauty, diversity, resilience and wonder. In this articulation we will draw from our Episcopal sacramental understanding, particularly as God reveals Himself in the waters of creation, cleansing healing, and initiating. We will look to the Bible and other Christian writings to see how God is experienced in the rich soils of the earth and in the air as well. We will draw from Celtic and American Indian and New Zealand resources.

Second, there will be a *confessional expression to mirror the expression of gratitude*. We will confess that we have not been the good stewards of God's earth He entrusted us to be, and, because of our poor stewardship, we now find ourselves with an environmental disaster we do not seem able to reverse and for which we need God to intervene and undo the harm we have done. We will look to the penitential litanies of our tradition for much of this language.

If God is not willing to intervene and stop the oil leak in the Gulf, then we surrender to our own negligence and ask for the wisdom to do the very best we can with the chaos we have created in God's environment and pray for the strength and tenacity to stay with the clean-up effort until God's environment is fully restored, while yet praying for God to change His mind.

The expression of Thanksgiving and the Confession will be expressed through prayer and outward and visible signs, punctuated by meditative silence and music.

The *third and final* part of the Vigil will be the sharing in a Covenant with Creation – essentially a promise to God that we will work hard to be better stewards of His earth. Throughout this Vigil, we will be very careful to make clear that this is not our earth but rather God's earth that He has entrusted to us. We are not asking God to change what He has done, but rather to give us hearts to change what we have done.

Outline for the Vigilance 2010 Service

Bidding Prayer (*Why we are gathered*)

Musical Offering

Prayers in Thanksgiving for God's Earth

- Thanksgiving for the earth (*soil*)
- Silent meditation
- Thanksgiving for air
- Silent meditation
- Thanksgiving for water
- Silent meditation

Musical Offering

A Litany of Confession for the Mistreatment of God's Earth

- Mistreatment of God's earth (*soil*)
- Silent meditation
- Mistreatment of God's air
- Silent meditation
- Mistreatment of God's water
- Silent meditation

Musical Offering

A Covenant with Creation (*a promise to care for God's earth*)

Closing Prayers

The Dismissal and Exchange of the Peace